For Immediate Release

Maxsurf links with ShipConstructor to provide end-to-end solution for shipyards

Fremantle, Australia and Victoria, Canada, Monday 15th September, 2003 –

Formation Design Systems and Albacore Research Ltd. (ARL) have announced that Formation's Maxsurf suite of naval architecture and ship construction software now links with Albacore's ShipConstructor software suite to provide shipyards with a complete end to end solution for ship design, detailing and production.

The link has been developed by Formation Design Systems as part of their ongoing program of adding additional capabilities to the Workshop module within the Maxsurf suite of software. The new functions allow naval architects and structural designers to take preliminary structural definitions from Workshop and export them in a format compatible with ShipConstructor. This format allows transverse frames, longitudinal stringers, hull plates and decks to be transferred.

Formation Design Systems broadens scope of software suite from design to shipyard production environment. Philip Christensen, Managing Director of Formation Design Systems, says "This link has been developed as a result of demands from our shipbuilding customers for a smooth link from initial design and structural definition through to detailed design and production. We decided to link with the ShipConstructor system because of its support for the industry standard AutoCAD platform as well as its comprehensive range of detailing tools and expanding production capabilities."

"This solution satisfies the practical needs of builders during the detailing and construction phases. Intelligent data transfer of this type reduces errors, maintains part accuracy and saves valuable time in the detailing process" added Christensen.

A range of part types to be exported The new Maxsurf/ShipConstructor interface allows a range of parts to be exported. These include: export of hull plates complete with both 2D and 3D plate information and marking lines; export of stringer information including the full 3D stringer shape, export of transverse frames including cutouts for stringers and openings in the frame; export of decks including any deck openings.

All parts can be rendered in 3D before export and verified in a similar way after import into ShipConstructor. The Maxsurf to ShipConstructor functions are available immediately in the version 9.6 release of the Maxsurf suite of software.

ARL's President Rolf G. Oetter says "Providing a direct link from Maxsurf to ShipConstructor aids Maxsurf users in making a smooth transition into production detailing, providing significant cost savings in production. In the next step, the ShipConstructor database can be integrated with other shipyard functions, such as production planning, scheduling, purchasing,

and accounting. ShipConstructor users have reported a reduction in man-hours of up to fifty percent per vessel."

Formation Design Systems develops integrated, computer aided design and engineering software incorporating the latest advances in 3D modelling technology. Specialist areas of application include shipbuilding, structural engineering and industrial design. All products are characterized by three main design criteria - a consistent and intuitive graphical user interface for all modules, an integrated database which provides a parametric design capability and strict compliance with industry standards for software and data exchange. Formation's products are used worldwide by leading shipbuilding and construction companies from concept to construction.

Further information:
Philip Christensen, Formation Design Systems Pty. Ltd., P.O. Box 1293, Fremantle WA 6959 Australia
Tel. +61 8 335 1522, Fax +61 8 9335 1526
info@formsys.com, www.formsys.com

Albacore Research develops the software suite *ShipConstructor*, an easy-to-use, 3D product-modeling tool for ships and offshore structures of all sizes. *ShipConstructor* provides functions for Curved Plate Production, Internal Structure, Piping, HVAC, Nesting and NC Processing. *ShipConstructor* runs inside of AutoCAD connecting all data to Microsoft SQL Server, thus presenting a familiar environment and resulting in minimal training requirements. The modular software design and flexible licensing allow *ShipConstructor* to be fully scalable to the client's specific business needs from the largest shipyard down to the smallest boat builder. *ShipConstructor* is used worldwide by hundreds of shipyards and naval architects on a wide range of vessels and offshore structures.

Further information:
Rolf G. Oetter, Albacore Research. Ltd., #304 - 3960 Quadra St, Victoria BC, V8X 4A3 Canada
Tel: +1-250-479-3638 Fax: +1-250-479-0868
info@ShipConstructor.com, www.ShipConstructor.com

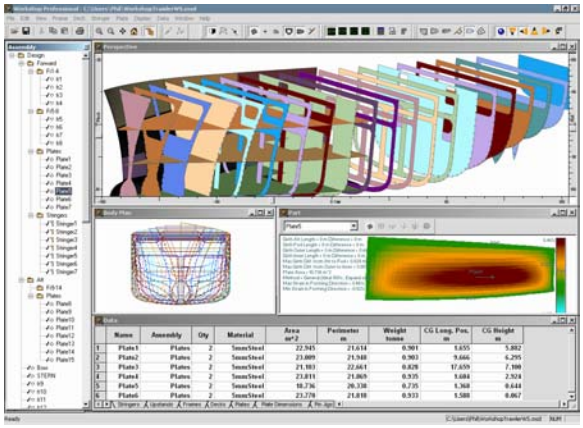

Figure 1: From a Maxsurf initial design model…

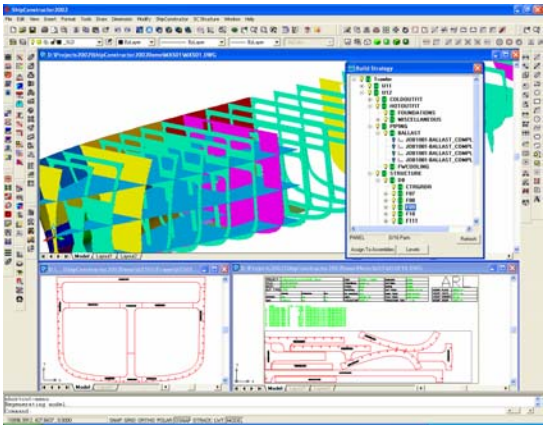

Figure 2:…to a ShipConstructor production model